

Appl. No.: 10/014,943
Amdt. dated January 23, 2004
R ply to Office action f December 1, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant received the final Office Action dated December 1, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 as anticipated by Cromer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,732). In this response, Applicant adds claims 28-33 and amends claims 1, 4, 5, 8-11, 14-22 and 24-25. Claims 1-5, 8-11, 14-25 and 28-33 are pending. Based on the amendments and arguments contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS

Amended claim 1, in part, requires that "a portion of said host-specific information is stored in the management device during a boot process of the host computer and the management device is operable to manage a function for the host computer using the host-specific information." Cromer does not teach or suggest this limitation. Specifically, Cromer teaches that, while still in a shipping box, a computer system 12 is configurable by a main computer 102 via a flap 28 formed in the box. Using a communication subsystem with auxiliary power, the computer system 12 can automatically provide its capabilities to the main computer without powering on to facilitate configuring the computer system 12 in its shipping package (see col. 2, lines 32-35). After receiving the computer system's capabilities, the main computer configures the computer system 12 by waking up the computer system 12 and storing an image in the main computer's hard drive (see col. 10, lines 11-46). Cromer does not teach a "management device" that stores host-specific information "during a boot process of the host computer" as required in claim 1. Furthermore, Cromer does not teach "a management device [that] is operable to manage a function for the host device using the host-specific information" as required in claim 1. For at least these reasons, individually or in combination, Applicant submits that claim 1 and all claims that depend from claim 1 are allowable.

Amended claim 17, in part, requires a "logic unit [that] is adapted to couple to a host computer system and store a table containing host computer information in the memory during a power on self test of the host computer system whereby

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the logic unit uses the table to manage a function for the host computer." Cromer does not teach or suggest "a table containing host computer information" as required in claim 17. Furthermore, Cromer does not teach or suggest storing the "table containing host computer information" in the logic unit's "memory during a power on self test of the host computer system" as required in claim 17. Furthermore, Cromer does not teach or suggest a "logic unit" that "uses the table to manage a function for the host computer" as required in claim 17. For at least these reasons, individually or in combination, Applicant submits that claim 17 and all claims that depend from claim 17 are allowable.

Amended claim 24, in part, requires "searching for host computer specific information during a boot process of the host computer," "storing said information in a memory of the logic unit," and "using the information during the operation of the logic unit to independently control a function for the host computer." Applicant cannot find a teaching or suggestion of these limitations, individually or in combination, in Cromer. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that claim 24 and all claims that depend from claim 24 are allowable.

II. NEW CLAIMS

Claim 29, in part, requires "the management unit accesses and stores the information table during a boot process of the host computer such that the management unit is operable to carry out a predetermined management responsibility associated with the information table prior to the host computer reaching a run-time." Applicant cannot find a teaching or suggestion of this limitation in Cromer. For at least this reason, Applicant submit that claim 29 and all claims that depend from claim 29 are allowable.

III. CONCLUSIONS

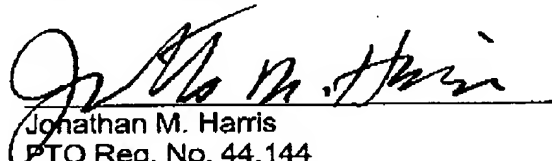
In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may

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be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Respectfully submitted,



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